

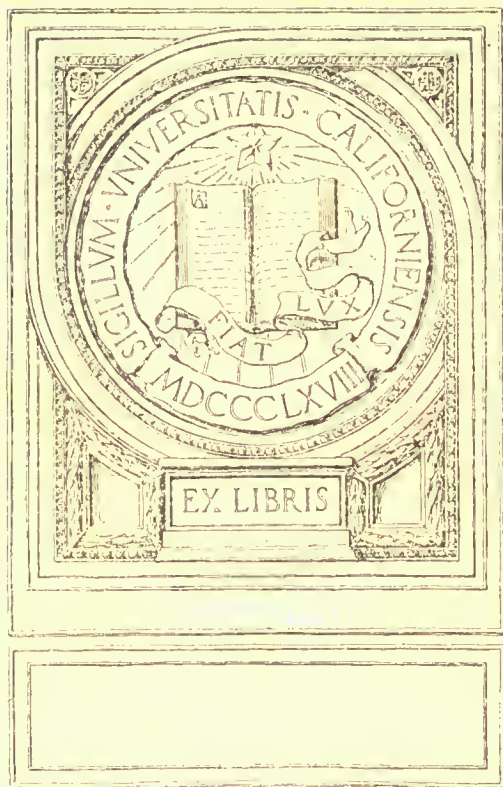
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THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES OF BENICIA
A Community Survey

A Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the
requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts
at the University of California.

By

William Kirk Woolery

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^{May}
Berkeley, March 1915.

Approved.
R. G. Boone.
A. J. Hays.

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A Community Survey

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THE INTERNATIONAL REPORT OF THE

A Community Survey

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Foreword

The real educational institution is the community. Before the time when a need for formal schools was felt, the common life of the community itself furnished the means whereby the growing child was trained to fill its destined place in society. There was no delegation to a separate and definite institution of the education of the young. The very simplicity of life precluded the necessity for such an institution. Here was the economic activity of the community which determined the outlook on life and the standard of living; here was the religious life which fashioned the community's ideals; here were the resources of nature, the wonderful out-of-doors, bringing a silent but effective force into the heart and imagination; here the general social life with its organizations and relaxations, brightening the home and relieving the hours away from toil or war; the political life with its recurring debate on equality of justice and of opportunity. These were the forces in the life of the primitive community which wrought their spell on the child and the community.

With the growth of population and increasing complexity of life however, came the last of the great social institutions the school. With it developed a new profession, teaching.

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With the growth of population and increasing complexity of life however, came the last of the great social institutions the school. With it developed a new profession, teaching.

Into the hands of this new profession society delivered the new invention, for such the school was, for doing a work which had become too technical to be done in the old, unconscious way. The duty of the school was to be that of a helper, an organ of the organism. The obligation thus laid upon the school was as boundless as the surging impulses of life itself. The school was to be society's instrument for making the child's training as thorough, as practical, and as moral as in the older, more primitive community. That the training was thorough is evidenced by the fact that the tests were those of life itself; practical because from the materials and for the purposes of the community life; and moral because the child's life became identical with the spirit and purpose of the community.

From this early intent the school has sought to escape. Freeing themselves from the restraint of duty to the community, schools have come to make learning itself the chief reason for existing. Their scope has been extended to include everything in their field. No longer is the same emphasis put on those vital forces of the community life which still play, in spite of the school, such a great part in the life of boys and girls. Only recently, in the swinging of the pedagogical pendulum toward vocational training and allied topics, has our educational philosophy shown signs of awakening to the need for that truly practical nature, that social thoroughness, and that real morality

which were the predominant features of the education of the more primitive world.

What then shall the school and more especiall the teacher, do? To grant that these educative forces still exist in the community means to recognize the duty of finding and using them. Shall not the teacher search carefully, patiently, and deeply into the community life, sympathetically and thoughtfully, noting the activities, pursuits, interests, and the relationships which are daily making strong educational impressions on the growing child? And then as carefully and patiently seek to find just where the weakness and viciousness of the community need the strength and moral force of its schools? The school must become an efficient social analyst and a moral, as well as intellectual practitioner. "Within the community there is work that educates and provides for life; within the community are the roots of the cosmopolitanism that marks the truly educated man; within the community there is room for a noble and dignified culture and leisure for all. Let us become aware of our community resources, physical, social, moral. Let us recognize the part they play and will always play in the actual education of our boys and girls. Let us consciously extend their powers within legitimate bounds, until our modern education within the community shall be, as completely as possible, natural, immediate, and free.

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Let us organize our socially supplementary institution, the school, until it shall adequately reinforce the work of education where it is weak, and supply it where it is wanting. So, and only so, will the child become really educated, the community find education genuine, practical, and thorough, and vitally moral, and the school become in our times what it was originally intended to be, - the social instrument for doing those things of an educational nature which are not already being done more effectively by the primitive and unconscious influences of the community's common life."

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Survey of Benicia.

Physical Features.

The Straits of Carquinez form a part of San Francisco Bay. Near the eastern end, before broadening out into Suisun Bay, this body of water sweeps around a wide curve, partially enclosing the site of the city of Benicia. From the water's edge the land rolls back in a gentle slope to the hills in the background, attaining finally to an elevation of some five hundred feet. The scene is not unlike that to be found at Constantinople where the Bosphorus carries the waters of the Black Sea to the Marmora. From the hills back of Benicia a view is obtained which may rarely be equalled. A great panorama is spread before the eye. Away to the north rise the twin peaks of Suisun Mountain, while, extending from them to the southeast are the Green Valley hills, excluding a sight of the Sacramento Valley. Twenty-five miles to the southeast Mt. Diablo rears its four thousand feet of blue-black rock into the sky. Here in the fore-ground lies Benicia descending very moderately to the water front, where nature has provided a wonderful harbor; beyond, the blue waters of Carquinez Straits, and still beyond them the steep, brown hills of Contra Costa County. No more in the way of picturesque surroundings could be desired. The beauty of the site is impressive.

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The contour of the country provides a perfect natural system of drainage. Water from rains runs off directly into the straits. Sewage is disposed of by a good system which was installed, and is being extended, very easily because of the uninterrupted flow from any part of the city to the outlet. Water supply is from a large, natural reservoir about five miles to the north and up among the hills. There is very little erosion since surface water is carried off in small streame. A disadvantage lies in the fact that during rainy seasons the ends of the short valleys, once estuaries, become flooded and remain so for several months.

Benicia is accessible by rail, by water, and by highway. The Southern Pacific Railroad operates some thirty passenger trains east and west every day, making it possible to take a train either way every hour. The same corporation provides for transportation by water, its boats reaching interior and coast points. Many highways of Northern California converge here in order to connect with the ferry crossing Carquinez Straits. With the completion of the new state highway, now within two miles of Benicia, travel by road to any section of California will be an easy matter.

The agronomic conditions of the area around Benicia are not encouraging. During 1913 and 1914 a commission, by state authority, made an exhaustive study of this region to determine the effects of the fumes from the Selby Smelter upon the plant

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The atmospheric conditions of the area around Benicia are not encouraging. During 1913 and 1914 a commission, by state authority, made an exhaustive study of this region to determine the effects of the fumes from the Sigsbee Smelter upon the plant

life and farm animals. From their report it may be gathered that farm products in this particular locality do not reach the average for the whole state either in quantity or in quality. The soils are loams or silt-loams, and since there is no erosion no soil is brought from a distance to be added to them. The depth varies from a few inches to four feet. The soil is superimposed upon a sub-stratum of pervious sand-stone. This soil is of poor quality generally, and never rich, since it is lacking in humus. The combination of these detrimental factors preclude successful farming, and when to the already bad conditions is added a system of poor methods in agriculture, mediocre results are guaranteed.

The climate is between that of the coast and that of the interior. There is neither the fog of the one nor the high temperature of the other, which perhaps marks what may be termed the extremes of the summers of those two sections. The annual rainfall is from 15 to 20 inches. The range of temperature is twenty-eight degrees, ranging from a winter average of forty-eight degrees to a summer average of sixty-six degrees.

Such climatic conditions are nearly perfect. Nature seems to have done her utmost here. A splendid situation, natural drainage, a harbor which man cannot improve, an ideal climate, picturesque surroundings, accessibility, deep water on one side, the great inland valleys of California. on the other - what more can be desired as to physical features.

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History

Mexico had barely begun to congratulate herself on accomplishing her independence of Spain when she discovered that her troubles, instead of being ended, were in reality just beginning. Without having as yet worked out a clear domestic policy she was obliged to turn to the defense of her northern possessions along the Pacific.

The Russians, entrenched in Alaska, were endangering California. Americans were coming in the persons of intrepid frontiersmen, and finding a desirable country, were settling there, not as Mexican subjects but as usurpers of the land. Texas was breaking away, and the possibilities of friction with the United States were well known. The solution in California was characteristic of a Spanish people. Bands of soldiers were sent to take the land from the Indians and to form a continuous chain of settlements thus making a line of defense through which the Americans could not break. Among the sons of these men was one who later became a large land-holder, claiming extensive stretches of the country north of San Francisco Bay. This was General Señor Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, who, with his beautiful bride, Francesca, came to Sonoma sometime previous to the year 1844, the date being uncertain. But the purpose for which General Vallejo settled on his vast domain was not to be accomplished.

The Americans in the neighborhood of what is now Sacramento, led by Captain Granville Swist, moved on Sonoma. They acted under orders from Colonel John C. Fremont who was commissioned (?) to effect the conquest of California as a part of the campaign against Mexico with whom the United States was now at war. General Vallejo was captured and, accompanied by Captain Swift and Dr. Robert Semple, was taken in a sloop to Sutter's Fort. For a week he was held captive and then, being released, was brought back by the same route to Sonoma. During both trips Dr. Semple expressed his admiration for the site where Benicia now stands. He was convinced that it offered unusual advantages for the location of a city. His enthusiasm brought from General Vallejo the response of a donation. Since the latter's claims were almost coextensive with his vision he considered the land his to dispose of, and accordingly it was surveyed for city lots and streets. This was in June 1846. Shortly afterwards Dr. Semple put up a frame dwelling and brought his family here. He was followed by a number of persons and presently there was a town.

The name of Francesca was chosen in honor of the wife of General Vallejo, but a confusion soon arose from the fact that Yerba Buena was changed to San Francisco. The two names being so much alike, Francesca was changed to Benicia, the

same purpose being served, since the new title was one of the lady whom it was desired to honor, Francesca Benicia Felispe Carrillò Vallejo.

To the men of those early days Benicia seemed destined to become the chief city of the Pacific Coast. Here the great inland valleys reached deep water; here the trails from ranch, mine, and forest met the ocean going vessels to which would be transferred their exports and from which the pioneers would obtain those things needed in conquering a new country. The town was prosperous looking and growing into a place of importance among the settlements along the coast. There were large-visioned men among the settlers. As an instance of their influence, General Persifer F. Smith was invited to visit the city., and upon coming was so well pleased that he exerted himself to induce the government to purchase the point of land overlooking Suisun Bay for a military reservation. This was done and the Benecia Arsenal stands today as the tangible result. At the Constitutional Convention held in Monterey for inducting California into the Union, in 1849-50, Mr. Semple presided. His influence could not secure for Benicia the capital of the state since the first Legislature met at San Jose, but the fourth session came to Benicia and an act of the Legislature of that year, 1853, proposed to make it the perman

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ent capital. But no appropriation was made for public buildings, and since the Legislature was nototiously on wheels then the capital was moved to Sacramento for the next session.

Benicia and Monterey were the earliest incorporated cities of the state, March 27th, 1850. In the same year Benicia was made county seat of Solano County, a distinction which she held until 1858.

But the good fortune which was the city's lot up to this time was to have a reaction. The deterrents are not difficult to find, but they are difficult to understand. The same optimism which could see no future but a commercial metropolis, boomed the price of land until those who would invest went away in disgust and anger. A great fire in San Francisco in the early fifties should have brought to Benicia a multitude of legitimate businesses but the chance was lost by greed. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company built shops and a pier here, and up to 1870 Benicia was the terminal for the greatest lines of the Pacific Ocean. The pay-roll at one time was \$60,000 per month. But with the coming of the Overland Railroad (Central Pacific), and feeling a need for location in a larger financial center, this business removed to San Francisco.

During these years Benicia was making educational history of state-wide importance. In 1853 there was established the first convent school on the coast. The Sister of St. Dominic

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from Monterey founded St.Catherine's which has from that time enjoyed a satisfactory patronage. The buildings together with the grounds form one of the few beautiful spots in Benicia. At the same time the Young Ladies Seminary was opened. This school was also the earliest of its kind on the Pacific Coast. From 1866 to 1871 it was under the Reverend C.T.Mills and his wife, who later moved to Oakland and began the well-known Mill's College for young ladies. The Young Ladies Seminary has since been abandoned.

During the year 1853 the Collegiate Institute was founded. Later it grew into St.Agustine's College for young men. This with the College of St.Mary's for women, which were under the same control, had a wide reputation and enjoyed a season of prosperity. St.Mary's was established by Bishop Becks, the first Protestant missionary to the Pacific coast. Their grounds even yet show the fine natural setting which at one time was a source of pride to the town. To these should be added the churches. A Presbyterian church was built up in 1849 and was undoubtedly the first Protestant church in California. Through the political stand of its pastor at the outbreak of the Civil War harmony was destroyed and abandonment came in 1869. The Congregational branch followed and supplanted it in the same year. The Roman Catholic church of St.Dominis's was establish-

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ed in 1851. Among the pastors who laid the foundations for the present strength of that church in Benicia was Father Villarossa. Later an ecclesiastical school and monastery were added, in whose library of six thousand volumes are many invaluable manuscripts. The Episcopal church was built in 1859. Bishop Wingfield is a prominent name in its history. At one time on account of drawing from the attendance in St. Mary's and St. Agustin's Colleges, the congregation was quite large.

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Economic Life

Benicia is a manufacturing city. Very little share of the living of its inhabitants is derived from any other source than the industries. Wages received from the several manufacturing plants support as many as three-fourths of the people of the city. A list of these plants includes, the Kullman-Salz Tannery, the McKay Tannery, the Western Creamery, the Carquinez Packing Company, the Benicia Iron Works, the Rex Spray Company, the Benicia Ship-yards, the Benicia Brewery, the Port Costa Lumber Company. and the Vulcan Rock Crushing Company. To these should be added the Benicia Arsenal, since it gives employment to many townspeople as well as to government employees.

When there is such an array of industrial works whose products are so widely different, and whose success determines the economic welfare of such a great proportion of the population, it can be readily appreciated why Benicia should be called a purely industrial city. Among the businesses, that of tanning is most important. With the exception of the earlier period when shipping was the pre-eminent occupation, this has always been true. Back in 1868 a small beginning was made when the Pioneer Tannery was opened for business on the site

Introduction

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ment.

Then there is such an array of industrial concerns whose products are so widely distributed, and whose success determines the economic welfare of such a great proportion of the population, it can be readily appreciated why San Jose should be called a purely industrial city. Among the businesses, that of canning is most important. With the exception of the earlier period when shipping was the predominant occupation, this has almost been true. Even in 1908 a small beginning was made when the Fruit Company was opened for business on the site

of the present McKay Tannery, which is the successor of the older institution. For the times the fittings were good, and in a short while Benicia was the tannery hub of California. This enviable reputation has been retained to the present day, there being no tanneries west of Chicago doing a business comparable with that of the two here. Considering the importance of this branch of industry to the well-being and progress of the city, we have deemed it to be in place to make a more thorough and detailed study of it as a type of the community's economic activity.

Before going on into this study, however, it will be necessary to devote some consideration to another phase of the industrial situation, that is to labor conditions. The men who work in the manufactories are to a great extent aliens, Greeks, Portuguese, and Italians. Their introduction came about through a strike which the union tanners had begun in sympathy with a like move by the workers in a Redwood City tannery, and which the Benicia firm ended on its part by importing from Chicago an entirely new corps of men. The men whom the newcomers replaced were obliged to seek employment for themselves, and hence homes for their families, elsewhere. The new men, aliens, were without families; their principal object in being in Benicia, or in America, for that matter, was to get the highest wages they

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could command. Their numbers in Benicia have been slowly increasing until now more than half of the population is either foreign born or of the second generation removed. Under these conditions any survey which attempts to fathom the meaning to this community of its economic interests must be largely concerned with the status of foreign wage-earners.

From a local view-point this matter is of the very greatest importance. And beyond the confines of the community the same thing is true. When one class with low standards of living begins to supplant a higher class, an inevitable clash follows. All through the nation it is recognized that the immigration most dangerous to the American laborer is that from southern and eastern Europe. They come to earn the higher wages offered in the United States, and have the fixed intention of returning to the homeland to spend those wages. There is no incentive for them to become Americanized and to adopt American standards of living since their intense desire for the advantage of the moment makes it impossible to stir up their ambition for a better condition of living.

The foreign laborers in one of the tanneries number one hundred and forty-three men. They are divided as to nationality thus: Portugal, 105, Greece 27, Italy 11. Of these sixty are married, thirty having families abroad. The average length

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From a local viewpoint this matter is of the very greatest importance. And beyond the confines of the community the same thing is true. When one class with low standards of living begins to supplant a higher class, an inevitable class follows. All through the matter it is recognized that the immigration most dangerous to the American laborer is that from southern and eastern Europe. They come to earn the higher wages offered in the United States, and have the fixed intention of returning to the homeland to spend those wages. There is no incentive for them to become Americanized and to adopt American standards of living since their intention is to use the advantage of the moment merely as a means to stir up their ambition for a better condition of living.

The foreign laborer in one of the services number one (domestic and foreign) was 100,000. They are divided as to nationality thus: Portuguese, 100,000; Greek, 100,000. Of these 100,000 are native, 100,000 are foreign. The average length

of residence in the United States in ten years. Twenty per cent of the men own their homes, the remainder living together in clubs, or boarding at cheap boarding houses. Those who club together live under conditions which would be thought impossible, or at least highly repugnant, by native Americans. Thus part of the town has been converted into unsanitary, near-tenement, sleeping quarters rather than into clean, wholesome homes. The total amount of property owned by them is increasing at a much lower rate than their numbers are.

A distinction should be made here between the two classes of persons known by the sommon name of Portuguese. The one class is from the Azores; the other from the mainland. The latter is often referred to by the slighting appellation of "Lisbons". It is with this class that our survey deals. Some difficulty was encountered in ascertaining what proportion of these men expect to return to their native land, but it is safe to say that fifteen per cent have the definite intention and no doubt a greater number cherish the hope. Their wages average \$13.50 per week while living expenses, and this includes expenditures for all purposes, are \$3.25. In other words, they spend twenty-four and save seventy-six per cent of their income. Money is sent regularly to Europe.

Through the post-office from January 1 to December 8, 1914, there was sent to Greece \$1442.87; to Italy \$1398.25; to

of residence in the United States in ten years. Twenty per cent of the men own their homes, the remainder living together in clubs, or boarding at cheap boarding houses. Those who club together live under conditions which would be almost impossible, or at least highly unpleasant, for native Americans. The fact of the town has been converted into a necessity, most-pleasant, sleeping quarters rather than into clean, wholesome homes. The total amount of property owned by them is increasing at a much lower rate than their numbers are.

A distinction should be made here between the two classes of persons known by the common name of Portuguese. The one class is from the Azores; the other from the mainland. The latter is often referred to as the "lighting" population of "Lisbon". It is with this class that our survey deals. Some difficulty was encountered in ascertaining what proportion of these men expect to return to their native land, but it is safe to say that fifteen per cent have the definite intention and no doubt a greater number cherish the hope. Their wages average \$15.00 per week while living expenses, and this includes expenditures for all purposes, are \$5.25. In other words, they spend twenty-four and one-half cents per cent of their income. Money is sent regularly to Europe. Through the post-office from January 1 to December 31, 1911, there was sent to Greece \$145,637; to Italy \$153,257; to

Portugal \$51.00. The comparatively small amount sent to the last-named country is explained by the fact that bank drafts, as well as cash, were sent instead. When it is known that remittances to foreign countries by laborers comprised considerably more than half of the amount passing through this office during the period given, and that twenty times the total postal money orders was sent in other ways, pretty definite conclusions can be drawn concerning the disposal of that seventy-six per cent of saved wages. Of course the amount fluctuates, there being less sent now than in 1912 or 1913. The Balkan Wars called out a great deal of Greek money. Moreover, the postal authorities have closed their channels to Portugal, Austria, Egypt, Turkey, and Belgium during the present war. Foreigners are very careful concerning their deposits. Banks are rarely used at first. The local postal savings bank is not preferred to the local private bank or San Francisco banks, or even to local fellow-countrymen. All these are used, the Italians choosing city banks, all new-comers the postal savings bank, and Portuguese the other two. The men return to their old homes to visit very considerably. They induce some few to emigrate, but the number coming in by immigration is negligible in the whole number. It is an exceptional thing for them to bring, or send for, brides from Europe. Their marriage, a

Portugal \$21.00. The comparatively small amount sent to the
last-named country is explained by the fact that bank notes,
as well as gold, are not imported. There is no more than
sufficient for foreign payments by travelers carrying small-
change with them. Half of the amount passing through this office
during the period given, and that twenty times the total postal
money orders was sent in other ways, mostly by the consular-
agents can be drawn concerning the disposal of that money, and
not sent of course wages. Of course the recent limitations, there
being less sent now than in 1915 or 1916. The Belgian bank call-
ed out a great deal of French money. Moreover, the postal
authorities have closed their accounts to Portugal, Austria,
Egypt, Turkey, and Belgium during the present war. Portuguese
are very careful in collecting their deposits. Banks are rarely
used at all. The local postal savings bank is not preferred
to the local private bank or San Francisco bank, or even to
local letter-conveyance. All these are used, the Italians
choosing city banks, the Americans the postal savings bank,
and Portuguese the other two. The new system to their old
houses to visit very considerably. They indeed come less to
exist, but the matter coming in by immigration is negligible
in the home market. It is an exceptional thing for them to
bring, as well as, articles from Europe. Their articles, a

rare thing in such a class of men, is, with hardly an exception, to girls of their own race and class.

As is the custom among peoples of southern Europe, wine drinking is common. A moderation exists, however, and warrants the conclusion that the receipts of the saloons in Benicia are less from foreign wage-earners than from an equal number of native Americans. Only fifteen of the one hundred and forty-three studied, are voters. Their usual conversation is carried on in other languages than English. They are not becoming Americanized. Only to a limited extent are they getting to be in sympathy with American ideas and ideals.

The tanning industry furnishes occupation for a majority of the foreign element. Of the one hundred and forty-three men considered, sixty-two are classed as skillful laborers. The unskilled hands are employed thus : (1) hide handlers who unload cars as they come from the packing houses, (2) lime pullers who handle hides in the lime vats, (3) hair washers and driers, (4) yard men, (5) bleachers, (6) leach casters who throw spent bark out of leach tanks, (7) loft men who hang up and take down leather in drying rooms, (8) bark grinders and haulers, (9) spongers who sponge off the surface of leather in preparation for rolling, (10) dippers who dampen the leather for rolling, (11) stuffers who put grease in harness leather, (12) teamsters, (13) general utility.

the being in such a state of mind, is, with little exception,
to give of their own mind and ideas.

As is the custom among people of southern Europe, wine
drinking is common. A violent attack, however, and sometimes
the sensation that the receipt of the poison is fatal
and that the body is being attacked from an external source
of active poisoning. Only fifteen of the one hundred and
forty-three attacks, are violent. Their usual sensation is
settled on in other languages than English. They are not de-
scribing themselves. Only to a limited extent are they feeling
so as to suggest that the poison is fatal.

The feeling, however, is not suggestive for a majority
of the foreign element. It is the limited and forty-three
can be described, fifty-two are named as feeling factors.
The unaltered names are repeated thus : (1) the name
and unless one is very close to the feeling house, (2)
the patient who is in the line area, (3) their
name and state, (4) yard man, (5) pleasure, (6) each
occurs who have spent part of their time, (7) 102
and who are up and down further in order, (8)
back further and further, (9) appears who should be an
article of interest in preparation for rolling, (10) 112
who cannot be described for rolling, (11) 112 who has been
in between 112, (12) 112, (13) general utility.

The skillful laborers are: (1) liquor runners, who fill the yard vats with tan liquor, (2) leach tenders who attend to the leaching of bark, (3) concentrator engineers who attend to evaporating water from tan liquor which would otherwise be too weak, (4) fleshers who take superfluous flesh from hides, (5) unhairers who work fine hair and dirt from hides, (6) assorters who grade leather into selections of fineness and weights, (7) rollers who pack the leather by rolling it under pressure, (8) croppers who trim off edges, (9) cutters who cut leather into strips, blocks, etc., (10) shavers who level off leather for the purpose of making uniform strips of harness leather, (11) table hands who work at tables for stretching, smoothing, blacking, and finishing harness leather (12) carpenters, (13) firemen, (14) foremen. The different races are about equally capable, and equally industrious, but the Portuguese are most reliable.

As to the prospects for young people to live and make a living here in Benicia, the conditions are not discouraging. A great lack is the ambition for achievement. While there is no decided drift to the larger cities, yet there is not a healthy spirit of progress and keen, aggressive demand for material betterment.

Most of all there is needed in Benicia an unselfish cooperation of economic forces to promote the welfare of the community's

The official language was: (1) English, (2) French, (3) Spanish, (4) Italian, (5) German, (6) Russian, (7) Chinese, (8) Japanese, (9) Korean, (10) Vietnamese, (11) Thai, (12) Burmese, (13) Indonesian, (14) Malay, (15) Tagalog, (16) Filipino, (17) Hindi, (18) Urdu, (19) Bengali, (20) Assamese, (21) Marathi, (22) Gujarati, (23) Punjabi, (24) Sindhi, (25) Baluchi, (26) Pashto, (27) Dari, (28) Persian, (29) Uzbek, (30) Tajik, (31) Kyrgyz, (32) Kazakh, (33) Turkmen, (34) Azerbaijani, (35) Armenian, (36) Georgian, (37) Abkhaz, (38) Chechen, (39) Dagestani, (40) Ingush, (41) Kabardian, (42) Ossetian, (43) Tatar, (44) Bashkir, (45) Chuvash, (46) Mari, (47) Mordvin, (48) Udmurt, (49) Komi, (50) Nenets, (51) Nentsy, (52) Evenki, (53) Even, (54) Yakut, (55) Chukchi, (56) Koryak, (57) Itel'men, (58) Kamchatkan, (59) Nivkhan, (60) Gilyak, (61) Udege, (62) Nanai, (63) Heilong, (64) Jurchen, (65) Manchu, (66) Korean, (67) Japanese, (68) Chinese, (69) Vietnamese, (70) Thai, (71) Burmese, (72) 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life and to establish the city's position among her trade rivals as high as it deserves to be. In view of a commercially advantageous location and a long period of development, in view of her prominence in years past, and above all the intensity of competition today in the world of industry, a strong pull-together spirit with some more altruistic motive behind it than self-interest will be the sure promoter of better business, better things for the workingman, greater opportunities for young people, and more wholesome, encouraging, and inspiring life for the young and for the old within the community.

life and to establish the city's position among the world's rivals
as a city, as it deserves to be. In view of the enormous
strategic location and a long period of development, in view
of her prominence in years past, and above all the intensity of
competition today in the world of industry, a strong pull-
together spirit with some more radical ideas being it
that self-interest will be the sure promoter of better business,
better things for the community, greater opportunities for
young people, and more well-being, understanding, and learning
life for the young and for the old within the community.

Health and Sanitation

The general standard of vitality of the people is high. The fact is due in a large measure, no doubt, to the splendid location. A good natural drainage with a slight elevation, and a pleasant southern exposure, as are here found, have always been considered the most desirable features for a town site. To this is added a climate without extremes of temperature with many days of sunshine and warmth which make possible an out-door life during the greater part of the year, and an out-of-doors beauty which a generous Nature has bestowed upon the city's surroundings to gladden the hearts of its inhabitants.

However, the very features which for so many years were thought to be so much more conducive to health in rural or village communities than the crowded life of the city, the "old oaken bucket", the unguarded milk pail, and the generally unregulated, uninspected, wholly unconventional ways of living and of handling questions of vital nature are now declared by medical science to be fraught with deadly menace. Just such a condition exists here. That sanitary conditions are below those of larger cities is hardly debatable. That the people enjoy health, and that no serious epidemics have occurred re-

Section of Country

The general character of the country is high. The land is one in a large measure, as well, to the extent of the elevation. A good natural drainage with a slight elevation, and a pleasant southern exposure, as the town, here is- were soon considered the most desirable location for a town also. The site is almost without exception of ten- persons with many days of sunshine and variety which makes the- while an out-door life during the greater part of the year, and an out-of-door beauty which a few more hours from the city's surroundings to furnish the beauty of its inhabitants.

However, the very features which for so many years have brought to the so much more conducive to health in rural or village communities than the crowded life of the city, the "old order" the unpolluted air, the unpolluted life, and the generally unpolluted, unspoiled, really unconventional way of living and of outdoor recreation of rural nature are now destroyed by industrial nature to be brought with heavy smoke. Just such a condition exists here. That sanitary conditions are below those of larger cities is hardly debatable. That the people enjoy health, and that in various epidemics have occurred in-

cently does not refute the argument that the possibilities of infection are present and that the better methods in sanitation and hygiene of the great cities should be copied. There are state laws and city ordinances dealing with vital topics of course, and while under a near-perfect working of the present order no doubt it will not be considered either advisable or necessary to take measures looking toward a still higher degree of perfection. Cases in point are the sewers, the tullees, and the water supply. The outlet for sewers is directly at the water's edge and in many cases within a few feet of dwellings and streets. The sections of the city which are but slightly elevated above high tide remain flooded during several months of the year and not only contribute a source of unsightliness to an otherwise naturally pretty locality, but furnish breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The water supply has been unfit for drinking purposes for more than a year with no other expression upon the fact than individual complaint. From July 1912 to June 1914 sixty-two tests were made in the laboratories of the State Board of Health. As a result of findings in the analysis of 1913 and 1914 the local newspaper has been carrying a notice to the effect that the water should be boiled before being used for drinking. Yet every day working men and school children use the water as it comes from the faucet.

cently done and follow the suggestion that the possibilities
of infection are greatest and least the better methods in
sanitation and hygiene of the great cities should be copied.
There are some laws and city ordinances dealing with fire
topics or sewage, and while much a number of cities of
the present about so does it will not be considered a
necessity or necessary to take measures looking toward a still
higher degree of sanitation. Cases in point are the sewage,
the salinity and the water supply. The outlet for sewage is
directly at the water's edge and it may cause within a few
feet of dwelling and streets. The sections of the city which
are but slightly elevated above high tide remain flooded dur-
ing the several months of the year and not only sanitation
aspects of the situation are in operation, but the water
supply and the sewage disposal are in operation. The water
supply has been made for drinking purposes for more than a
year with no other objection upon the part than individual
complaint. From July 1911 to June 1912 about two tons were
sent to the laboratories at a State Board of Health. As a
result of findings in the analysis of 1911 and 1912 the local
superintendent has been carrying a notice to the effect that the
water should be boiled before using, used for drinking. The
nearly day drinking can and school children are the water in
is drawn from the faucet.

From the local records, from those in the county courthouse at Fairfield, and from the reports of the State Board of Health, vital statistics were secured which show a comparison of the birth, death, and marriage rates for the State of California, the County of Solano, and the City of Benicia. They extend back no farther than 1912, since it was believed that no purpose would be served in this survey by following the matter through a longer period, and for the added reason that no further reliable, data could be found. The rates are given for the one thousand persons.

Birth rates

1912. California - - - - - 15.2

Solano County - - - - - 12.3

Benicia - - - - - 12.2

1913. California - - - - - 16.4

Solano County - - - - - 12.4

Benicia - - - - - 12.3

Death rates

1912. California - - - - - 14.2

Solano County - - - - - 11.1

Benicia - - - - - 7.0

1913.	California - - - - -	14.4
	Solano County - - - - -	12.9
	Benicia - - - - -	9.7

Marriage rates

1912.	California - - - - -	12.1
	Solano County - - - - -	5.8
1913.	California - - - - -	11.7
	Solano County - - - - -	6.1

It will be seen that Benicia is practically the same as the county as to birth rate, the increase being small and the figures as compared with those for the whole state mean that this section is falling behind the average in respect to progress in this important matter.

This is explained in part in the city by the presence of the large number of unmarried aliens. The marriage rate for the city is also very much the same as for the county. A study of the death rates bears out the statement made above, that Benicia is one of the most healthful cities of California. An interesting aside, connecting this study with the previous one on economic life, is the population. A great many causes have brought about a decrease in the numbers of residents.

1915.	California - - - - -	14.4
	Coloado County - - - - -	12.9
	Genoia - - - - -	8.7

Married Rates

1915.	California - - - - -	12.1
	Coloado County - - - - -	7.8
1917.	California - - - - -	11.7
	Coloado County - - - - -	6.1

It will be seen that Genoia is practically the same as the county as a whole, the married being small and the figures as compared with those for the whole state when that this section is falling within the average in respect to progress in this important matter.

This is explained in part in the city of the presence of the large number of married persons. The marriage rate for the city is also very much the same as for the county.

A study of the death rates bears out the statement made above, that Genoia is one of the most healthy of cities in California. An interesting aside, connecting this with the previous one of economic life, is the population. A great many causes have brought about a decrease in the numbers of residents.

In 1890 the number of people in Benicia was 2,361, in 1900, 2,751, in 1910, 2,360. By using the methods employed in the Federal Census Bureau for estimating populations between censuses, the number for July, 1914, would be 2,217, and for January 1, 1915, 2,177.

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In 1910 the number of people in Canada was 5,381, in 1900, 5,751, in 1910, 5,950. By using the method employed in the Federal Census Bureau for estimating population between censuses, the number for July, 1914, would be 5,517, and for January 1, 1915, 5,177.

Political Life

That spirit of the West which its historians declare has made American institutions American, has its disadvantages as well as its benefits. Open-mindedness, fairness, generosity, justice, are all removed but a step from their antitheses. The extreme independence of the early settlers transmitted as an heritage to the present generation tends, without modification in submitting to the controls of society which are more stringent now than formerly, to become a kind of license which disregards all but legal restraints. Such a tendency prevails in Benicia, and, while a delicate balance is maintained between law and order on the one hand and unrestrained liberty on the other, yet personal desires and volitions are made the criterion for conduct more often than social conscience. There is no sense of class distinction. Democracy is carried to its ultimate meaning. The policing system is good as regards the more serious situations which it is obliged to face, as in preventing robbery and crime against person and property, but there is a curious reluctance to admit that minor infringements come within its jurisdiction or even its notice. Of course when a request is made, by any citizen, or group of citizens, satisfactory action is taken, but it is not an uncommon sight to see

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children twelve or thirteen years old hanging around the doors of a hall where they may watch a dance to the very end, some times twelve-thirty or one o'clock at night; to see children loafing on the sidewalks in near proximity to saloons till an hour beyond when a curfew should have sent them home; to see automobiles making their own speed regulations; or trash being dumped upon any conveniently near spot. Perhaps all such matters should not be laid to the police. Certainly city ordinance and civic conscience on these matters are the sources of final responsibility.

The political divisions are fair and above reproach. Of course there are attempts to use influence, and there is political back-biting, but no such words as "corrupt" or "insidious" may be fairly used to describe the conditions. The laboring people are quite independent as to their political affiliations. They reach the normal of small city voters in regard to determining their sympathies for parties on a basis of intelligence rather than by tradition. No economic unrest or agitation has been at work to develop political association.

But Benicia has its problems of democracy. While, as stated previously, an unusual freedom does exist, qualifications must be made in regard to the use and application of the term. It was in the more narrow sense of class distinction rather than in the wider meaning of political democracy

children twelve or thirteen years old hanging around the doors of a hall where they wait a dance to the very end, some times twenty or thirty or one o'clock at night; to see children looting on the sidewalks in near proximity to persons till an hour beyond when a curfew should have sent them home; to see automobiles making their own speed regulations; or trash being dumped upon any conveniently near spot. These all such matters should not be laid to the police. Certainly city ordinance and civic conscience on these matters are the sources of final responsibility.

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that the word was employed. This means that if government in the city, and in the state, shall be responsive and responsible to the people, then the people must be intelligent enough to understand what demands to make upon their officials in order to have policies worked out which shall insure the greatest progress of the community and the most benefit to themselves. The highest degree of such intelligence does not prevail either here or in any other community, and perhaps it is as well that it does not since there would then be little left for the community to strive for in the way of political ideals.

What is needed in social service is that there shall be leaders to stir up the desire to know about these things. When the great majority of voters make it clear that they want to learn about the matters which make up the political life of their community, and that they no longer intend to be satisfied with the superficial knowledge of the past, then and only then, will democracy have a real significance.

The courts of Benicia are free from political and insidious influences. The local organ of publicity may not be entirely free in a political sense, but its editorial policy is one of the most constructive forces in the city's life. There is no economic or financial force which is exerting a detrimental ascendancy in the city government. And yet there is a

discontent, as baffling as it is pronounced, which prevents any real cooperation of all citizens looking toward steady community progress. Of association for civic betterment there are the Civic League, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Benicia Improvement Company. The first named is a branch of the California State Civic League and its members, all women, have been proceeding upon a definite program and have secured some very valuable and practical results. The Chamber of Commerce has worked diligently for those interests of the city which are usually championed by such organizations and while the showings thus far are not large, such measures have been initiated as will probably result in greater success in the future.

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General Social Life

This would be the heart and whole of the theme were it not limited to mean social life in the narrower sense rather than in the general. But it has been thought best to make this study along a number of lines and thus particularize instead of trying to present the facts as a whole body under one general topic. To be sure each heading is but one phase of the general title "social life", but the plan followed is better if it be logical reasoning to say that the life of the community has distinctive aspects within its organic unity, and that there is a social life worthy of study which is only one of these aspects. And it is on this side that there is a problem whose solution calls for the highest constructive ingenuity.

The means of entertainment in Benicia lie outside the home. The objects which draw people together in a social way are, in order of attractiveness, moving pictures, lodges, dances, home talent plays, athletic events, and clubs. The factors which determine the attendance and the forms of entertaining are thus seen to be those appealing to the sense of pleasurable excitement. With reference to social gatherings the customs are peculiar to the vicinity. First to be

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The theme of entertainment in British life outside the home. The objects which draw people together in a social way are, in order of attractiveness, social partners, dances, games, team sports, literary, artistic events, and music. The literature also discusses the differences in the forms of entertainment and the need to be more receptive to the needs of the individual. With reference to social partners, it is noted that the custom of visiting to the home is first to be

noted is the entire absence of class distinction. Since there are no dependent poor nor any idle rich in Benicia, and this statement is made advisedly and with no qualifications, there are no horizontal divisions on this score. Again there is so little that is patterned after the great cities that no air of superiority or snobbishness appears. Parents accompany their children to a certain extent in attendance upon evening affairs. Yet this statement must be guarded by adding that the mothers who do go are very much the same ones each time, giving the purely social events an appearance of being well chaperoned but not establishing the general custom. In fact it is the same persons largely, who attend all these affairs, and, while it is a representative body usually, there is no social center in Benicia. The only forms of commercialized social gatherings are the saloons and the pool-rooms. There are no dances run for profit.

The social life of the city as seen in a broad view is pretty thoroughly wholesome but not very constructive. There are no imputations of immorality arising from this phase of life, the very point at which sociologists tell us American life is weakest, morally. Let us visualize a typical evening's entertainment. There is a home talent play. The house is filled with people, for these events are well patronized. The

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parts are judiciously assigned, the lines conscientiously learned and well rendered. The audience is appreciative and vigorous in applause. After the play the floor is cleared for dancing, which lasts until midnight. A small crowd remains at the door but only rarely is there any disturbance serious enough to mar the pleasure of those on the floor. Some criticism is drawn upon the town from outsiders due to the social custom which has set aside convention, or what purports to be convention, and has frankly disapproved of "ragging" of moderate nature at dances. This being merely a statement of facts, no criticism or defense of the usage.

For the children of the community there is only too little being done in a social way. There is that same division here which is common to the whole country, a separation of children from adults. How the hours away from school or home are spent by their boys and girls should be a serious concern for parents. Games and play of the right sort are necessary for the exercise not only of muscles but of mind, and imagination as well. There is nothing more interesting than to draw over one's self the mask of impersonality and retiring to an unnoticed point for observation, to watch the happy, vigorous play of the child grow into no less absorbing pleasure of the adolescent, finally to become a reflection of the social order in that culmination

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ordered by Nature, the home. Boys and girls should have their clubs just as adults have. In Benicia they are lacking. In a way this deficiency will be amended, however, in the club-house which will shortly be erected by the Benicial Improvement Company. This organization is made up of citizens, both men and women, who are desirous of giving the city a social center, and an institution which will cater to the young and old, rich and poor, meeting their requirements in a recreational and social way. Its program has been worked out to the extent of getting the funds for a building and of receiving the unqualified support of a great majority of the townspeople, as well as in having for a board of director, men who are willing and capable to give their best services.

There are social conditions in Benicia which need organizing on a higher level. There are even strong anti-social forces. This might have been expressed in the singular number since there is one of them whose strength and importance overshadows all the others. This is the saloon. Now it is to be noted at the outset that a singular set of circumstances modifies the results of the saloon's influence so greatly that a superficial observer would conclude it has little to do one way or the other with the fundamentals of Benicia's life. This survey has nothing to do with prohibition, but it does have to do with searching out

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and analyzing as intelligently as may be every factor which has a vital bearing on the social and economic life of the people within its scope.

There are twenty saloons and a brewery in Benicia. Besides these are the bar-rooms of the two ferry-boats, and the groceries which have considerable sale of liquor. If the population be twenty-three hundred, there is one saloon to every one hundred and fifteen persons. Subtracting the number of women and children from the total number of people, remembering that the number of children is sadly out of proportion when compared with normal cities, and there is one to every thirty-five men. The financial side of this is worth considering. Just how much the receipts during one month are is a matter of speculation since there is no means of getting the figures, but it is safe to assume that no business of this or any other kind would be worth the investment and time of its owner unless the return were seventy-five dollars per month. Gross receipts of \$175 per month would call for a total expenditure in the city of \$3,500 for the same time, or \$40,000 per year. A previous survey of similar nature to this, made the estimate \$54,000 per year. Further speculation along this line is almost irresistible. What would it mean to this community

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There are twenty saloons and a grocery in Danville. Be-
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population be twenty-four hundred, there there is one saloon
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its owner unless the return were seventy-five dollars per
month. Gross receipts of \$15 per month would call for a total
expenditure to the city of \$500 for the same time, or \$40,000
per year. A previous survey of similar nature to this, made the
estimate \$4,000 per year. Further speculation along this line
is almost irresistible. What would it mean to this community

if the same sum were turned into productive channels! What a decidedly different community if, within the next five years, \$200,000 were to be wisely invested in concerns which made for physical and moral progress, which are not only valuable in themselves but give cause for civic pride! However, there is another side beyond the financial. No matter what principles of decency saloon-keepers may have there is steadily flowing out of their places of business an influence which is weakening the moral fiber, and blocking the proper development, of the community. It is the common thing to hear young boys swear and tell obscene stories and otherwise imitate their elders whose source of inspiration is undeniably too often the saloon. Again there is an unwillingness for cooperation, a sullenness and deadness, which is a direct result of over-fed appetites. The bouyancy and intense desire for things in life to be right, the very optimism of a normal man, is killed by continually feeding the baser lusts and disregarding the higher aspirations.

Here is one of Benicia's social ills. Here is an anti-social element. To rid itself of this disease which is gripping its vitals the community must needs use heroic treatment. To abolish the institution is not enough. There must be a

strong incentive offered to secure voluntary action in abandoning the old, and substituting the new, order of things. If the saloons have been, and are, satisfying a craving of Benicia's men, then before we can expect them to be renounced in favor of something different, the virtues of the new attraction must be so vastly superiour, so generally appreciated, and so immediately desired, that there shall be no feeling of compulsion away from a still attractive life and into a despised new order, but a sense of having seen the light, a comprehension of making fruitful the soil of community living, for the growth of all the finest social virtues and skills, assuring "that finer community life about which the world has so long dreamed and hoped; a community life into which there shall enter nothing that is unclean, that worketh an abomination, or that maketh a lie."

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Moral and Religious Life

Every phase of community life has its bright and its dark sides, its strength and its weakness. No body of persons can be said to possess thorough morality any more than they have absolute immorality. And, since there are always the elements present, any impression as to the moral level in a given vicinity which has been received by a momentary glance will always fail to be just to the true conditions, for this level varies directly as to the force behind either element. In Benicia it is the more necessary to proceed slowly and carefully in weighing and analyzing the facts as to moral and religious life, since to take them at their face value, without going beneath the surface, would mean to conclude that this is a town of veritable heathenism. There are four organized and established religious bodies, the Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Congregational, and Methodist. There are also some sixty-five adherents of the Greek Catholic church who have no definite religious program in this city. The nominal membership of these bodies is about eighty per cent of the population; the active membership about thirty; and the number present at ordinary services on any Sunday about fifteen per cent.

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Men's Institutes, whose activities may be classed as social in nature. There is no branch of the Young Men's Christian Association although one was in existence here in former years. The attitude of the people as a whole is indifference. This does not mean that there are not sincere workers, and that the church does not make an earnest effort to promote its objects, but that the issue seems to be of less concern than in most cities. Pastors receive a living salary but this is not a determining incentive for a man to continue here. With a few exceptions ministers in the Protestant churches have remained during a term of three or four years. There is no coöperative work among the churches; at least no program which outlines a community work for all the people. There is likewise no coöperation between churches and public schools, for while the latter recognizes the work of the former, and both regard themselves as social institutions, yet neither seems able to make a move towards united effort by the two. No religious survey or census is being worked on. Itinerant evangelists can make but slight impression for their work is generally looked upon with indifference, if not with jest and ridicule. Additions to churches ^{come slowly} and members already received stay away from the services so largely that it is a serious concern to pastors and those members who take an active part in furthering the church's inter-

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ests to fill the pews. With such baffling and discouraging conditions to face the church will not be able to accomplish its mission of becoming the source of purifying and ennobling influences until it shall have dominated the situation.

Benicia needs, above all, to be shaken from its false security, to awaken to an anxious concern as to her spiritual life. She requires not so much the benefits of a Christianity of social service as to recognize clearly that there is a great rent in her social fabric which can be mended only by a deeper spiritual and reverential life among her people. Here is a woeful deficiency, a glaring incompleteness of her development that is all too apparent. The answer is a church united, scourging the city for her moral laxity, her religious indifference and her irreverence, dominating the community by powerful impulses which make for an end not the church itself but a steady development of morals and character.

Morality and religion have come to be differentiated not so much **by** their application as by their practices. In other words, those men who hold to the moral order but who adhere to no religious body are classed separately from those who are active in attendance upon, and participation in, the services of some branch of the church.

Philosophy only can furnish the answer. The fact is here noted not for debating its merits but as implying that

used to fill the gaps. With such selfish and discouraging conditions to face the church will not be able to accomplish its mission of leading the forces of truth and embodying righteousness until it shall have dominated the situation.

Denial means, when all, to be shaken from its false security, to realize that no religious concept is to be spiritual life. We realize not so much the presence of a Christianity of social service as of a religion which is a great force in our social fabric which can be changed only by a deeper spiritual and reverent life among our people. There is a social religion, a living, developing, of new development that is all too apparent. The answer is a church united, working for the city for her moral unity, her religious indifference and her irreverence, dominating the community as powerful agencies which will for us and not the church itself but a

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the preceding paragraphs leave unanswered the closely related question of moral life. The general moral level of Benicia is not very high. It is not that there is a prevailing immorality, as it is a lack of high standards. There are no gathering places which could be suspected of criminality, yet many places do permit or even encourage idleness, and a kind of viciousness. Loafing in saloons or in pool-rooms, or about the streets, men and boys are much given to profanity and coarse jests. It is not intimated that this includes all the male inhabitants or even that all receive a taint of this degenerating influence, but it is set forth that up to the present time there seems to be no disposition on the part of the class not included to launch a counter balancing influence. The leadership of the community is in the hands of men and women of unquestioned morality, but, nevertheless, such practices are allowed to go on by the very inertia of public opinion. Conscience on these moral questions seems to be dormant and not easily awakened.

But the influence on the schools is so considerable that it looms up as the greatest problem which the teachers have to handle. Admitting that the schools are properly intelligent in dealing with the moral issues which arise in their daily affairs no one can suppose that the question ends there. When the homes are not generally, or at least not uniformly influential toward

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a higher moral and social life; when other strong factors in the community life do not share the responsibility of moral development, the schools can only combat the evil and anti-social tendencies they see and pray for the best. The hope for the future seems to lie in the direction of coöperation. A social center would do much. To put it all in a sentence, if the community would desire the most and the best in social and moral progress it must take the task upon its shoulders; it must bring all its forces to help bear the burden by their association, for mental stimulus in discussion, for education, and for religion.

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Intellectual Life

The women of Benicia stand on a plane with the men, intellectually. Through their Civic League they have done for themselves and for their children what no other association could, or would, do. Thus that desire which most parents have, that their children should have better advantages than they, themselves, had, is really helpful to these children. The general intelligence is slowly rising toward a desirable level. The intellectual capacity of the citizens of Benicia, if a large portion of the foreign population is left out of the consideration, is equal to that of average Californians and, unless the development of recent years is misunderstood, promise of considerable advancement for the future is given. Appeal to the intellect is here more potential than appeal to the emotions. The neighborhood conversation is not unduly composed of scandal or insidious comment and yet it is generally of such a purely local nature that it cannot be said to show a wide range of intelligence.

This is not to say that the community does not feel the currents of thought of the larger life of the state and nation, nor that its interests in, and knowledge of, these things are

Intellectual Level

The scores of schools stand on a plane with the best, intellectually. Through their Civic League they have done for themselves and for their children what no other organization could, or would, do. Thus that factor which most parents have, that their children should have better advantages than they, themselves, had, is really helped in these children. The general intelligence is slowly rising toward a desirable level. The intellectual capacity of the citizens of Berkeley, if a large portion of the foreign population is left out of the consideration, is equal to that of average Californians and, unless the development of recent years is misinterpreted, promises of considerable advancement for the future is given. As to the intellect in these more potential than actual to the nation. The neighborhood conversation is not unduly composed of actual or incidental content and yet is generally of such a partly local and partly that it cannot be said to show a wide range of intelligence.

This is not to say that the community does not feel the currents of thought of the last few years of the state and nation, nor that the interests in the knowledge of these things are

altogether superficial. Perhaps the meaning will be clear if the statement is cast thus: There is much received from without which is absorbed into the common life, but so little constructive thought and original work is imitated that the community is not paying back its debt to the world.

There is a free public library supported by tax and under a committee of five. It has a stock of three thousand one hundred and twenty-four books. The original selection was fairly well made but so much useless material has been added that the entire number of volumes represents perhaps two or three times the section in daily demand. A room of the City Hall, about twenty-five by forty feet, is used for the stacks and for a general reading room. A number of daily and weekly newspapers from San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento and Solano County cities, together with such periodicals of current political and literary events as "Literary Digest", "Century", "Popular Mechanics", to the number of twenty are furnished here.

While many works of scientific or historical character grow dusty the more popular books of current fiction are in demand. The year-round average is one hundred and fifty books loaned out per month, about one-third more in winter than in summer; upwards of two hundred persons per week make use of the reading room; about seven times as many calls for fiction

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County, often, together with such periodicals of current politi-
cal and literary events as "Literary Digest", "Century",
"Popular Mechanism", to the number of twenty are furnished here.
This may serve as a substitute for historical materials
from which the more popular books of current fiction are in
demand. The post-room service is now conducted on fifty books
located out of house, most un-desired work is either taken in
summer; efforts of the library to keep up the use of
the reading room; about three times as many calls for fiction

are made as for any one other kind of books, the demand exceeding that for all non-fiction departments combined. The public library is one of the principal sources of mental stimulus and is meeting a response in the use which the inhabitants are making of its offerings. It is young yet and has not grown to the proportions which all the indications assure it will eventually assume.

As to the homes, conditions are not so encouraging. Perhaps less than a normal share of expenditure goes to increase the library or to subscriptions for current literature. Consistent with a due regard for the interests of fairness, it must be acknowledged that this testimony is based more upon logical deduction than upon extensive investigation. There has been investigation, of course, since it was considered essential to have every statement in this study founded upon first-hand facts, but since the vagaries of human nature give rise to conflicting opinions, the most that can be claimed here is that we have struck an average from assembled viewpoints. For instance a class in the local high school, of twenty girls who are ^{of} representative families gave as an answer to the query, "What is the number of volumes in your library?" the average of one hundred and sixty, and an average of six for periodicals subscribed for.

The nature of these collections varied greatly. Where one

its name as the only one of its kind, the demand for
ceding that for all non-fictional literature. The
public library is one of the principal sources of mental well-
being and is meeting a demand in the new world for in-
crease the number of its offerings. It is being met and the
not given to the proportion which the non-fictional literature
is still essentially narrow.

As to the future, conditions are not so encouraging. For-
tunately there is a normal sense of responsibility to the
the library or to the administration for the future. Com-
parison with the other side of the coin is of interest, it
may be suggested that the library is being more and more
logical definition of the library is being given. There
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first-hand facts, but since the variety of human nature give
rise to conflicting opinions, the fact that can be claimed
that is that we have reached an average level of knowledge and
points. For instance, a glance in the local high school, of
twenty cities and the representative libraries gave us an im-
pression of the query, "What is the number of volumes in your
library?" the average of one hundred and fifty, and an average
of six for technical and scientific for.

The nature of these conditions varied greatly. There can

or more magazines was common to several homes it was in every case a woman's publication.

There is no lecture course given during the winter season, nor even any occasional lecture dealing with a serious subject unless it be before a very limited number of people. There are concerts and home talent plays and these are well patronized, but they are expected to give a popular program followed by dancing or, by other means, to provide for amusement and diversion in a degree that stamps them as social, rather than truly intellectual, affairs. As a source of purely intellectual culture there is no accepted institution aside from the public school and the public library. There is an especial need along this line.

If you should ask of Benicia, "Is there anything here for the ambitious boy or girl?" it is not enough to reply that there is, meaning that industrial affairs are conducted in an honest and efficient way, that schools and library are open to all, and that there is a desire on the part of parents for their children to have better things. Certainly the opportunity to make a living is fundamental enough to be made sure of first of all, but once it is assured there is only the more reason to plan and prepare for more abundant life.

A taste for good music and worth-while books ought to be developed. Men of superior personality should be brought in

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their children to have better things. Certainly the opera-

tivity to make a living is fundamentally opposed to the main pur-

pose of life, but even if it is assumed there is only the more

reason to plan and prepare for more abundant life.

A taste for good music and north-western books ought to be

developed. Men of superior personality should be brought in

to lecture, more perhaps for the example of their strength as it is shown in expression and voice than for what is said. This example never fails to fire the ambition of young people who are all by nature the keenest judges and readiest admirers of true merit.

Finally there is the problem of a civic conscience. The mind, which thinks out the purpose, and the means to secure the progress, of the community is only the focalized consciousness of many minds. Leadership is given to the few not because the many are following, for if separate individuals were apart from the multitude and the multitude were not moving in their direction it would be a matter not of leadership but of radicalism. Benicia needs leaders just as any city does. But the greatest desideration^{um} in her intellectual life is to make sure that the mass of people is mounting, little by little, to the higher levels pointed out by every guide, both within and without, which the tests of the world have sanctioned as reliable and progressive. The most hopeful signs will be abandonment of an indifferent, inresponsive, jesting, and self-sufficient spirit and a hearkening to the voice of conscience whence will come self-examination for both merits and weaknesses, a pride in civic achievements, and an intelligent purpose for better things.

Analysis and Conclusions

The thesis which has inspired the gathering of the facts set forth in this survey is: What can be done to bring into the community the larger constructive interests and undertakings necessary to make the life of the community wholesome, progressive, inspiring, and broadly educative for all the boys and girls, and the men and women of all ages?

To the end of satisfying the requirements of this problem the preceding sections have set forth the facts in what are considered the seven predominant phases of life. In each case an attempt has been made to think out the significance of the facts and to form a relation to the whole problem through conclusions and suggestions.

There remains, then, the final discussion of educational possibilities in Benicia, considered in light of the conclusion as to the general community life.

It is needless, perhaps, to dwell over-long on the difficulties in making such a study. There is no precedent. The work demands interpretation of life. Less than a score of references have been consulted and a majority of those was found to be of little use. The method of attack was changed again and again as unknown resources of the community were discovered.

The purpose of this report is to provide the following information:

1. To identify the various types of information that are available to the public and to determine the extent to which this information is being disseminated.

2. To identify the various types of information that are available to the public and to determine the extent to which this information is being disseminated.

3. To identify the various types of information that are available to the public and to determine the extent to which this information is being disseminated.

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10. To identify the various types of information that are available to the public and to determine the extent to which this information is being disseminated.

to the end of investigating the responsibility of this problem
the legislative session may not finish the work in time and con-
sidered the entire government power of life. In each case an
attempt was made to solve the problem by the legislative
and to find a solution to the whole problem through compromise
and negotiation.

[illegible][illegible]

Through all was the growing conviction that communities everywhere will break down prejudices only as more complete self-knowledge helps them to become more of one soul. Schools will become efficient in proportion to their response to constructive demands laid upon them by communities. Educational leaders are to produce leaders in all the walks of life, "young men and women imbued with the spirit of masterful action and thoroughly prepared to cope with the problems" of an exacting world.

The schools of Benicia are organized on a basis of practicality. While manual training and domestic science furnish the most conspicuous examples of preparation for economic activity, yet the remainder of the curriculum has a close relationship to work and life of after years. This is explained by two facts. First, the community is one of workers who expect of the schools that practical training shall be given all children. Second, the administrative ideal of the school is to give employment to both hand and mind, working thus for skill as well as insight. No actual vocational training is given but the foundation for such is laid in several courses, notably surveying and draughtmanship, and in commercial work. However, the school could share to a greater extent in the problems of the development and conservation of the physical

resources of the vicinity. There is no practical gardening or agriculture, no application in chemistry or physics. Not enough is being done in promoting intelligence along the line of sanitation and hygiene. The community has not evolved a taste for out-door beauty and although water rates are excessively high, scientific study of the locality's demands and possibilities has no share in the school's considerations.

The grounds and buildings where children spend so many hours in study and play are not creditable to a progressive city. No effective efforts have been made to beautify the surroundings of the school. A lesson of value could be taught by proper care in planning and laying out usable playgrounds and a few well-kept walks, for surely whatever is of most service is of most beauty. To only a limited extent is the school made use of for any other purpose than that commonly ascribed to it. Yet there is not only need but an opportunity for making it a social center.

The attitude of the teachers is on one hand what it should be, on the other the reverse. Most of the teachers live in Benicia; the others "stay" here while this is the scene of their income. Some direction is given the play life of children at school and still further aid is rendered by the Benicia Club, but in the former case there is a lack of playground facilities and especially a cramped space, so that the results

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The grounds and buildings which children spend so many
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to it. But there is not only room but an opportunity for
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The attitude of the teachers is on one hand that it should
be, on the other the reverse. Most of the teachers live in
Detroit; the others "away" have little time in the course of
their income. Some attention is given the play life of child-
ren at school and still further aid is rendered by the Detroit
Club, which is now located near a park of playground
facilities and equipment, a large space, so that the results

fall far short of the ideal. The play life of the community as a whole, in fact, can not be described as constructive.

The public schools are intellectual forces in the city. They are relied upon to produce educated leaders who shall continue with the program already taken up by their predecessors. Reference is made to the paving of over three miles of streets at a cost of \$100,000; to the giving of nearly \$20,000 for school improvements including a new grammar school to be built in 1915; to providing a free public library of size and character superior to what may be found in small cities generally; to financing a social and recreational center in the Benicia Club; to cleaning up the unsightly lots and alleys and devoting a little attention to our-door and household beauty.

These are constructive interests. Shall the school desire to make itself known as the predominant agency in bringing in still larger interests? The answer will be best put in the statement that the school is coming to learn how to lay its finger on the community pulse, to recognize those weaknesses set forth in preceding pages, and to apply itself to their amelioration. Whatever the degree of success in achievement of these ideals may be, no lack of powerful stimulus can be claimed, for there is a community here which needs to be aroused and stimulated to extend its boundaries, in terms of work and living.

fall for about 20 to 30 years. The long life of the community as a whole, in fact, can not be measured as constructive. The public schools are interested factors in the city. They are relied upon to produce educated leaders who will continue with the program already taken up by the community. However, it is not the feeling of over 100,000 citizens at a cost of \$100,000; in the giving of nearly \$20,000 for school improvements including a new grammar school to be built in 1917; in providing a new public library of 100,000 volumes; in providing a new high school building; in providing a new vocational center in the business district; in cleaning up the unsightly lots and alleys and creating a little attraction to get-aways and good-looking scenery. These are constructive measures. Until the school begins to take itself more as the predominant agency in training in still larger numbers. The money will be put out in the statement that the school is called to learn how to lay the finger on the community pulse, to recognize the weaknesses and to take in remedial action, and to apply itself to their education. However the degree of success in achievement of these ideals may be, the lack of correct attitude can be raised, for their own community work which needs to be aroused and stimulated to expand its boundaries. In terms of goals and living.

"It is not likely that any community fully realizes its own resources. There is more intelligence in its members than they give each other credit for; there is more willingness to help each other; there is less of actual suspicion than appears on the surface. Perhaps the great task of the world is the conservation of our human resources. We have grown so accustomed to academic ways of looking at things that it seems difficult to face the essential facts of life. In every community of normal size there are boys and girls, young men and young women, not yet able completely to express themselves, still facing in some measure the larger revelation of the future. We shall make our communities richer in resource, and finer centers of life, just in so far as we are able to conserve these unknown human resources, these makers of the social world that is to be in the next generation, these energies that are eager to seize the tools of life and take their places in the constructive work of the world."

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